



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/787,514	03/19/2001	Vesa-Matti Jokinen	P-277904/299	2341
909	7590	01/23/2006		
		PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP	EXAMINER	
		P.O. BOX 10500	TAYLOR, BARRY W	
		MCLEAN, VA 22102	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2643	

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/787,514	JOKINEN, VESA-MATTI	
	Examiner Barry W. Taylor	Art Unit 2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Block et al (6,377,938 hereinafter Block) in view of Carlsson et al (6,026,291 hereinafter Carlsson) further in view of Martin et al (5,765,108 hereinafter Martin).

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 20. Block teaches a system, method and network for billing subscribers in a telecommunication network, wherein subscriber has billing accounts that are charged when services of the telecommunication network are used (abstract), comprising:

at least one subscriber billing group having at least two subscribers (col. 13 line 56 – col. 14 line 9);

assigning each subscriber a billing account in a billing database (col. 6 lines 39-44, col. 7 lines 45-50, col. 12 lines 20-240).

According to Applicant's, Block uses single account verses separate accounts for each subscriber (see paper number 7, page 2 lines 1-7, dated 4/16/2004).

The Examiner notes that Block discloses group billing permitting subscribers to charge telephone, paging, cellular, and other communication services to a single account. For example, all charges from the Billing Group (BG) can be charged to a main billing number and the Class Of Service (COS) can be established by the main billing number (col.14 lines 4-9).

Carlsson discloses using three separate registers within the system so that several terminals can be associated with one user, several users to be associated with one terminal, several subscriptions to be associated with one user, and several users to be selectively associated with one subscription wherein the subscription records include a list of allowed users for each subscription account (abstract). Carlsson teaches a cellular user can select a schedule that defines which subscriber accounts will be charged at specified times during the week (abstract, col. 1 lines 51-53, and col. 1 line 60 – col. 2 line 19). Carlsson teaches charging a personal account for private calls and charging a business account for business calls (col. 3 lines 21-38, col. 5 line 36 – col. 6 line 36, col. 6 lines 62-66, col. 8 lines 20-33 and lines 62-67) based on a specified schedule. For example, Carlsson shows that business account (see item 260 figure 5) is to be charged for all calls made between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and personal account (item 265) is to be charged for calls made between 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on the weekend (i.e. day 6).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teachings of Carlsson into the teachings of Block for the benefit of preventing employees from using company account during non-business days.

Next, Applicants contend that Block in view of Carlsson fail to teach billing accounts with access rights (see Applicants general comment on page 7, paper dated 6/3/05 and comment on page 6, paper dated 11/7/05).

Martin teaches telecommunications system where users of the system have control of respective groups of mobile telephones belonging to a controlled group (abstract, column 1, col. 7 line 5 – col. 8 line 40, col. 8 line 43 – col. 9 line16). Martin not only identifies users and user group but also identifies group privileges (item 320 figure 6a, col. 11 line 14 – col. 12 line 47). Martin not only allows companies the ability to limit calls from company phones during weekdays but allows for different parameters to be controlled for the respective mobile group thereby allowing companies the ability to control costs incurred by the use of mobile phones within a controlled group (col. 1 lines 15-32, col. 6 lines 60-62, col. 7 lines 5-65, col. 8 line 41 – col. 9 line 59).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teachings of Martin into the teachings of Block and Carlsson in order to allow companies the ability to set limits on accounts associated with their employees.

Regarding claims 2 and 8. Block teaches telecommunication environment (col. 3 line 67). Carlsson further shows master subscriber (see ERICSSON in figures 5 and 6) controlling billing group.

Regarding claims 3 and 9. Carlsson further shows the user is allowed to select which account is to be charged for a particular subscription (see figures 5-6).

Regarding claims 4 and 10. Block teaches using limited balance (see col. 6 line 37 "subscriber's usable balance"). Carlsson also shows placing restrictions on particular accounts (see figures 5-6).

Regarding claims 5 and 11. Block teaches prepayment account and/or account equipped with a credit limit (col. 3 lines 1-3, col. 7 lines 5-67).

Regarding claims 6 and 12. Carlsson further shows master subscriber (see ERICSSON in figures 5 and 6) controlling billing group.

Regarding claims 13-14. Carlsson teaches master subscriber has access to a telecommunication service by making a facility call to a predetermined service number (see figure 4 wherein master subscriber (i.e. 145) places facility call to a predetermined service number (see service number "AUSTIN" top left of figure 4)).

Regarding claims 15-17. Block discloses the present invention is not limited to wireline subscribers (see figure 5a, col. 16 lines 10-27).

Regarding claim 18. Carlsson further teaches forming the subscriber billing group into a billing database (see abstract wherein Carlsson discloses using three separate registers within the system so that several terminals can be associated with one user, several users to be associated with one terminal, several subscriptions to be associated with one user, and several users to be selectively associated with one

subscription wherein the subscription records include a list of allowed users for each subscription account).

Regarding claim 19. Carlsson teaches master subscriber has access to a telecommunication network (see figure 4 wherein master subscriber (i.e. 145) places call to a predetermined service number (see service number "AUSTIN" top left of figure 4)).

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Block et al (6,377,938 hereinafter Block) in view of Carlsson et al (6,026,291 hereinafter Carlsson) further in view of Jain et al (6,282,274 hereinafter Jain).

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 20. Block teaches a system, method and network for billing subscribers in a telecommunication network, wherein subscriber has billing accounts that are charged when services of the telecommunication network are used (abstract), comprising:

at least one subscriber-billing group having at least two subscribers (col. 13 line 56 – col. 14 line 9);

assigning each subscriber a billing account in a billing database (col. 6 lines 39-44, col. 7 lines 45-50, col. 12 lines 20-240).

According to Applicant's, Block uses single account verses separate accounts for each subscriber (see paper number 7, page 2 lines 1-7, dated 4/16/2004).

The Examiner notes that Block discloses group billing permitting subscribers to charge telephone, paging, cellular, and other communication services to a single account. For example, all charges from the Billing Group (BG) can be charged to a main billing number and the Class Of Service (COS) can be established by the main billing number (col.14 lines 4-9).

Carlsson discloses using three separate registers within the system so that several terminals can be associated with one user, several users to be associated with one terminal, several subscriptions to be associated with one user, and several users to be selectively associated with one subscription wherein the subscription records include a list of allowed users for each subscription account (abstract). Carlsson teaches a cellular user can select a schedule that defines which subscriber accounts will be charged at specified times during the week (abstract, col. 1 lines 51-53, and col. 1 line 60 – col. 2 line 19). Carlsson teaches charging a personal account for private calls and charging a business account for business calls (col. 3 lines 21-38, col. 5 line 36 – col. 6 line 36, col. 6 lines 62-66, col. 8 lines 20-33 and lines 62-67) based on a specified schedule. For example, Carlsson shows that business account (see item 260 figure 5) is to be charged for all calls made between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and personal account (item 265) is to be charged for calls made between 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on the weekend (i.e. day 6).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teachings of Carlsson into the teachings of Block for the benefit of preventing employees from using company account during non-business days.

Next, Applicants contend that Block in view of Carlsson fail to teach billing accounts with access rights (see Applicants general comment on page 7, paper dated 6/3/05 and comment on page 6, paper dated 11/7/05).

Jain teaches selectable billing options for telecommunications wherein subscribers can designate billing options on a per-call basis thereby allowing subscribers to establish a plurality of service accounts and designate to which of these accounts the charge for a particular call is to be billed (abstract, col. 1 lines 5-14, col. 3 lines 6-26, col. 4 lines 8-66, col. 6 line 41 – col. 7 line 64, col. 9 lines 6-55, col. 11 lines 13-51).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teachings of Jain into the teachings of Block and Carlsson in order to allow subscribers the ability to select billing preferences and service accounts on a per-call basis.

Regarding claims 2 and 8. Block teaches telecommunication environment (col. 3 line 67). Carlsson further shows master subscriber (see ERICSSON in figures 5 and 6) controlling billing group.

Regarding claims 3 and 9. Carlsson further shows the user is allowed to select which account is to be charged for a particular subscription (see figures 5-6).

Regarding claims 4 and 10. Block teaches using limited balance (see col. 6 line 37 "subscriber's usable balance"). Carlsson also shows placing restrictions on particular accounts (see figures 5-6).

Regarding claims 5 and 11. Block teaches prepayment account and/or account equipped with a credit limit (col. 3 lines 1-3, col. 7 lines 5-67).

Regarding claims 6 and 12. Carlsson further shows master subscriber (see ERICSSON in figures 5 and 6) controlling billing group.

Regarding claims 13-14. Carlsson teaches master subscriber has access to a telecommunication service by making a facility call to a predetermined service number (see figure 4 wherein master subscriber (i.e. 145) places facility call to a predetermined service number (see service number "AUSTIN" top left of figure 4)).

Regarding claims 15-17. Block discloses the present invention is not limited to wireline subscribers (see figure 5a, col. 16 lines 10-27).

Regarding claim 18. Carlsson further teaches forming the subscriber billing group into a billing database (see abstract wherein Carlsson discloses using three separate registers within the system so that several terminals can be associated with one user, several users to be associated with one terminal, several subscriptions to be associated with one user, and several users to be selectively associated with one subscription wherein the subscription records include a list of allowed users for each subscription account).

Regarding claim 19. Carlsson teaches master subscriber has access to a telecommunication network (see figure 4 wherein master subscriber (i.e. 145) places call to a predetermined service number (see service number "AUSTIN" top left of figure 4)).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 7 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor, telephone number (571) 272-7509, who is available Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached at (571) 272-7499. The central facsimile phone number for this group is **571-273-8300**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Centralized Delivery Policy: For patent related correspondence, hand carry deliveries must be made to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the central fax number (**571-273-8300**).



BARRY TAYLOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER